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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barbara Brenner
Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Todd Donovan
Ken Mann
Satpal Sidhu
Carl Weimer

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Suite #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010



WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO FILL AT-LARGE,
POSITION B, VACANCY ON THE WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

NAME: Alicia Rule
RESIDENCE ADDRESS: 2291 Dodd St
CITY: Blaine ZIP CODE: 98230
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT THAN RESIDENCE): _____
DAY TELEPHONE: 206-474-9501 EVENING TELEPHONE: same CELL PHONE: same
E-MAIL ADDRESS: aliciarule@msn.com
ARE YOU A REGISTERED RESIDENT VOTER OF WHATCOM COUNTY? yes
ARE YOU A US CITIZEN? YES NO ()
OCCUPATION (IF RETIRED, PLEASE INDICATE FORMER OCCUPATION): social worker

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY BACKGROUND*: Blaine City Council member at Large, President, Board of Directors Blaine Downtown Development Association, Community Organizer, Child Welfare, social worker and social work administrator, educator

EDUCATION*: graduated Meridian High School 1994, BA University of Washington 1998, MSW San Diego State University 2000

BRIEFLY EXPLAIN WHY YOU WISH TO SERVE ON THE COUNTY COUNCIL*: Public Service is at the core of who I am and I have been leading and serving my whole life. I believe my professional background, enthusiastic attitude to give and serve, along with a strong work ethic make me a strong candidate for this seat.

REFERENCES (PLEASE INCLUDE NAME AND DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER):
Christine Berg, Mayor Lafayette Co 720-442-1612
David Wilbrett, City Manager Blaine 360-332-8311
Laura Franckiewicz, Moms Demand Action, 312-533-0585
Alyson Greenfield, Senator Kevin VanDeWege, 360-562-6000
Paula Smith, Blaine resident 360-332-6622

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: Alicia Rule DATE: 12/20/17

*YOU MAY ATTACH A RESUME OR DETAILED SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS, AND INTERESTS

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT. THE ABOVE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL, COUNTY EXECUTIVE, AND THE PUBLIC.

December 20, 2017

Alicia Rule
2291 Dodd Avenue
Blaine WA, 98230
Aliciarule@msn.com
720.474.9501

To Council Members Brenner, Browne, Buchanan, Donovan, Mann, Sidhu and Weimer:

Thank you for taking the time to review my resume and experience. As you may know, I was recently elected to the Blaine City Council Member at Large Position. Although I have always been very involved in my community in a wide variety of roles, I have spent this campaign season in diligent study of local issues and the details of the local political process. I am enjoying my new roles and have discovered a particular interest in the much needed Economic Development in Blaine. Very quickly into my campaign, it became clear that this is the number one priority of my Blaine constituents, and I am serving as the President of the Board of Directors of the newly formed Blaine Downtown Development Association.

I am a quick study and am committed to lifelong learning and growth. My current political pursuits are no exception to this hard work ethic. I double majored in college, while graduating in less than four years from the University of Washington and simultaneously working nearly full time. I continued on to earn a Master's Degree in Social Work with an additional Pupil Personnel Services Credential, and I graduated with honors. I received the Leon Williams award for excellence in my work in the African American community. I always work hard in what I do to meet the highest expectations.

My professional experience as a Child Protective Services and adoptions social worker steered my passion into the training, development and policy administration sector as I took the lead in rolling out a new risk assessment protocol for 5,000 workers in the County of San Diego Child Welfare Services Health and Human Services Agency. I led the internship and training program that partnered the County of San Diego with San Diego State University and 5 other Southern California Universities' Graduate and Undergraduate Programs.

After moving to Colorado, I earned my Clinical License in Social Work. My clinical experience includes an outpatient clinic, a community based program, and running a home care/hospice program for the elderly and disabled.

I spent some years raising my three children at home, but all the while functioned as a leader in my community in various roles. This included the Junior League of Colorado Springs, work on the Obama campaign, and volunteering at the Democratic National Center Convention. I also organized a group of 1600 community members into an active parent group in Lafayette, Colorado. I worked with elected officials, business owners, community members and volunteers to successfully revitalize downtown Lafayette in Boulder County.


I've loved all of the places I've lived, but as my children grew to be school-aged it became important to me to return "home" to Whatcom County. We love our home in Blaine, where I am very busy and active in the community. We also stay connected Whatcom County in its entirety. Over the last two years, my children have attended Bellingham Public Schools, and they are currently attending in the Meridian school system. We are highly active in Blaine sports,

church activities in Birch Bay and Bellingham, and most of our friends are scattered around Bellingham and the County. My children participate in swim team at Bayside Pool each year as well as Wild Whatcom. We truly are active members of the entire Whatcom County community.

My deep Whatcom County roots, coupled with my professional and volunteer experience in multiple places with a wide variety of people, allow me to bring a unique perspective to the Council. As a mother of three young children, I bring a different framework to the table that represents our community well. My ongoing commitment to representing the range of citizens in our community mirrors the current Council's focus on supporting our diverse population. Furthermore, I think you will find my enthusiasm refreshing and my work ethic reliable.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of my application to join such an esteemed group of elected colleagues. I would be honored to have the opportunity to learn and work along side of you as we serve our Whatcom County neighbors well.

Sincerely,



Alicia Rule, MSW

Alicia Rule, MSW

[OBJ]

Alicia Rule

720-474-9501

2291 Dodd St. Blaine WA 98230
aliciarule@msn.com

Objectives

To serve the people of Whatcom County as the Whatcom County Council at Large, Position B

Education

2000 | Master's in Social Work, San Diego State University

- Graduated with honors
- Focus on Children, Youth and Families
- Member of the African American Student Caucus
- Received the Leon Williams Award for academic achievement and potential in the African American community
- Earned a Pupil Personnel Services Credential for work in school social work

1998 B.A. American Ethnic Studies, University of Washington

B.A. Psychology, University of Washington

2000 | Master's in Social Work, San Diego State University

- Graduated with honors

Experience

City of Blaine | City Council Member at Large, Elect

Ran a fully successful campaign and won with 60% of the votes

Board of Directors President, Blaine Downtown Development Partnership

- Coordinate activity of and provide support to the Blaine Downtown Partnership committee and any task forces formed to assist with the production and facilitation of special events.
- Manage all administrative aspects of the Blaine Downtown Development Partnership, including purchasing, record keeping, budget development, and accounting as well as assisting with the preparation of reports to funding agencies.
- Develop, in conjunction with the Blaine Downtown Development Partnership members, downtown economic development strategies coordinated with the City of Blaine's Economic Development Plan.
- Assist the Blaine Downtown Development Partnership in developing and implementing an annual action plan focused on four areas of organization; promotion, design, and economic development.

- Develop and conduct ongoing public awareness and education programs designed to enhance appreciation of the downtown's key assets. Use speaking engagements, media interviews, and personal appearances to keep the program in the public eye.
- Assist individual tenants or property owners with physical improvement projects through consultation, coordination with City agencies, and available technical assistance and loan programs.
- Encourage improvements in the downtown community's ability to carry out joint activities such as promotional events, advertising, uniform store hours, special events and business recruitment.
- Help build strong and productive working relationships with appropriate public agencies at the local and state levels.
- Develop and maintain data systems to track the process and progress of the Blaine Downtown Development Partnership.

City of Lafayette, Colorado, Community Organizer

- Worked with elected officials, community leaders and volunteers to revitalize downtown Lafayette and build a strong sense of community
- Built a community of parents that grew to over 1600 members

Volunteered for at the Democratic National Convention on the Obama Campaign, Denver 2008

Licensed Clinical Social Worker 2006-2011

Social Worker, County of San Diego 2000-2005



Complete

Referrer
 Date Taken 2017-12-31 15:16
 Location US

1 Name

Alicia Rule, MSW

2 Which of the five Council districts do you live in?

5

3 If you are selected to fill this one year At-Large position do you plan to run for election for this position in 2018?

I have not made up my mind yet about running for election

4 Lake Whatcom is the drinking water source for about half of the County, and the County has entered into a plan to cleanup the lake to ensure it remains a good source of water far into the future. That plan is slated to take about 50 years to complete. Which statement best represents your thoughts on this effort?

50 years to clean up our drinking water source is too long, so I support speeding up that effort and would be willing to raise taxes or divert funds from other County programs to do that.

5

There are many human needs in our community. Please check below all the areas that you believe need greater effort.

- Long-term affordable housing
- Programs to address domestic violence and sexual assault
- Emergency shelter for the homeless
- Mental health programs
- Substance abuse programs
- Incarceration prevention programs
- Low income medical and dental programs

6 If on question #5 you said any efforts need to increase, which of these statements best represents your belief in the County's role in funding such efforts.

These are critical needs, some more than others. It is going to take a combination of the above steps to make an impact on them. Social needs are intertwined with one another and need systematic and collaborative solutions that include local government partnering with private and nonprofit partners. Sometimes it requires reassigning dollars in the budget and we should always be looking for further funding and grant opportunities.

7

Voters recently rejected a ballot measure to fund a new County jail. What do you think the County should do now to address this situation?

I support using best practices and current research to implement incarceration reduction in our county. We need to work together to create a safe, fair and effective court system. The Vera Institute gave some research based recommendations that make sense to me as a social worker. I have worked directly with these people, issues and programs and know first hand that the criminal justice system and social services are most effective when they work together. I am particularly interested in diversion programs and significantly increasing substance abuse and mental health treatment in our county. I support the idea of A Pretrial Services Program using a researched based risk assessment tool and approaches like electric home monitoring as alternative approaches to incarceration. While it is true that violent offenders must be incarcerated safely, we can best achieve that by working on updating our practices to align with current research that suggests reform to keep non-violent offenders working toward rehabilitation in alternative programs. This is the most effective, humane and fiscally responsible approach.

8 Individual's property rights are an important issue in Whatcom County. What are your thoughts on how current governmental rules regarding land use and environmental protection impact a person's property rights

I have watched Whatcom County drastically change in my lifetime. Not long ago, we lived seemingly in the land of abundance and for a long time property owners and government leaders did not have to face these incredibly difficult questions. We didn't face the same environmental challenges that came with this growth and we didn't know as much. We now know and can observe that our natural resources are finite and we all have a responsibility to amend our behaviors, policies and practices to protect them. Our county has grown exponentially and we have to follow the laws that are in place, including environmental protection. I believe that most land owners in Whatcom County appreciate and love their land and will work to preserve it well within a larger ecosystem, using current research if we listen well and include them in the process. Together, we can create legal, long lasting, environmental protection solutions that preserve the natural beauty we all love about Whatcom County in ways that are practical, reasonable and inclusive of property owners.

9 The recent "Hirst" decision from the Supreme Court has affected many people's ability to drill wells to develop their property, and has caused the County to take a broader look at water rights and in-stream flow protections. Do you have any thoughts on how the Council should proceed on this issue?

This Supreme Court decision has landed Whatcom County Council in a legal pickle and as a coordinator of jurisdictions at this point. We should continue to work with Ecology and the State Legislature to explore a practical plan of compliance that doesn't burden local counties and individual property owners so heavily. At the same time, we need to come to concensus with the tribes that hold the senior water rights and work collaboratively with them for a set of creative solutions. Together, we need to decide how we can best determine impact on hydraulic continuity as well as how to prove compliance with the water we have available. We can look to other jurisdictions for ideas, but ultimately we need a customized solution that fits the unique geology, ecology and economy of Whatcom County. While we navigate the details of this particular decision, it is critical that we keep in mind that Whatcom County simply doesn't have enough water in the summer and we will need to continue exploring solutions to this problem as we move forward.

- 10 **Whatcom County sits in a unique geographical position and has one of the last undeveloped deep water ports on the west coast. In 2017 the County Council entered into a contract with an outside legal firm to gain information about what authority the County does, and does not have, regarding dealing with the various potential impacts from an increase in exports of fossil fuels from Cherry Point. Do you believe spending County money on such a legal analysis was a good idea?**

Yes

11

There is always an argument about what role the County plays in job creation and economic development, and how much County funding should be devoted to those things. What is your opinion on the County's role in this area?

Recognizing that economic development is an important issue in Whatcom County, I don't believe it to be the government's role to be the primary driver of economic growth. However, our local policies can certainly either support or hinder economic growth. It is the role of elected leaders to support policies that support healthy growth for our County. I am involved in and see some exciting redevelopment happening in our small cities and am excited about the nonprofit model of organizing these efforts. When cities and counties work together, we all thrive.
